

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01996 161825Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /132 W
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P R 161738Z MAR 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2325
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EAGR, AS
SUBJECT: US AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

REF:A. MTN GENEVA 162 B. MTN GENEVA 1893 C. STATE 57404

1. ON MARCH 14, MTN DEL HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN
MTN DEL ON AUSTRALIA'S NOTIFICATION AGAINST THE US (REF A) UNDER
"OTHER PRODUCTS" PROCEDURES OF GROUP AGRICULTURE. THE CON-
SULTATIONS REFLECTED, INTER ALIA, AUSTRALIA'S CONCERNS OVER
(1) REPORTS EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON THAT US HAS GIVEN
UP ON SEEKING ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE EC MARKET (REF B),(2) ANY
WEAKENING OF US WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH AUSTRALIA
IN PURSUING MULTILATERAL
SOLUTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES; AND (3) THE POSSIBILITY
THAT DRAGGED-OUT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS MIGHT LEAD TO BILATERAL
DEALS
AND THUS PRECLUDE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON MULTILATERAL APPROACHES TO
AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURE AND NTM GROUPS.
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 01996 161825Z

2. US DEL (KOENIG ET AL) AGREED WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEL (RYAN
ET AL) THAT THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS WAS TO EXCHANGE
INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS OF TRADE INTEREST TO AUSTRALIA AND ON
BROADER MTN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES, RECOGNIZING THAT NOTIFICATIONS
WERE NOT NECESSARILY EXHAUSTIVE NOR INDICATIVE OF REQUESTS. THE
AUSTRALIAN DEL STATED THAT AUSTRALIA'S OBJECTIVES IN THE MTN ON

AGRICULTURAL TRADE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF US AND THE COOPERATION DISPLAYED THUS FAR IN PURSUING COMMON OBJECTIVES HAD RECEIVED A POSITIVE REACTION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. AUSTRALIA WAS APPRECIATIVE OF US ACROSS-THE-BOARD TARIFF OFFER BUT WAS A LITTLE UNEASY THAT US MIGHT COME INTO CONFLICT WITH THE EC AND EXCLUDE AGRICULTURE AT THE END OF THE DAY. THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN.

3. ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS NOTIFIED, AUSTRALIA, INTER ALIA, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SHEEP MEATS; NO REAL RESTRICTIVE EFFECTS EXPERIENCED WITH TARIFFS ON MUTTON OR LAMB, BUT REMOVAL WOULD HELP TO BOLSTER AUSTRALIAN PRODUCER RETURNS. UNAWARE THAT MEAT LAW LIMITATIONS ON MUTTON HAD ANY RESTRICTIVE EFFECT ON MUTTON IMPORTS (IN CONTRAST TO BEEF). HE QUESTIONED THE RATIONALE OF INCLUDING MUTTON IN US MEAT LAW WHEN LAMB REMAINED OUTSIDE.

B. FRESH PEARS (TSUS 148.41 AND 148.82); INTERESTED IN EXTENSION OF SEASONAL TARIFF PERIOD ON TSUS 148.81 AT LEAST THROUGH JULY AND POSSIBLY BEYOND.

C. DRIED FRUIT: INTERESTED IN DRIED APRICOTS (TSUS 146.22), DRIED APPLES (TSUS 146.12) AND PRUNES (TSUS 149.26).

D. SUGAR: JAMOR AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIVE IS THE STABILIZATION OF WORLD SUGAR PRICES; A SECONDARY OBJECTIVE IS ACCESS AND LIMITATIONS ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES. PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIATING AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (ISA) SHOULD CONTINUE BUT A NEW ISA WOULD NOT BE UNRELATED TO THE MTN. AN AGREEMENT ON NEW ISA MAY NOT RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS AND MAY NOT BE SELF-BALANCING. ANY IMBALANCE WOULD REQUIRE COMPENSATION IN MTN ON SUGAR ITSELF (E.G., ACCESS), BUT ALSO POSSIBLY ON PRODUCTS OTHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 01996 161825Z

SUGAR, OR ADHERENCE TO GENERAL RULES AND CODES ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES. IT IS THEREFORE WRONG TO CONCLUDE THAT SUGAR IS OUTSIDE THE MTN. AUSTRALIA REGARDS THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS A NEW ISA AS ENCOURAGING.

E. CANNED FRUIT: AUSTRALIA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CANNED PEARS (TSUS 148.86). US NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN TRADE CEASED AFTER US TOOK ANTIDUMPING ACTION.

F. WINES: AUSTRALIAN DEL UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC TRADE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN EXPORTING TO US HOWEVER, HE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE MONOPOLY REGULATIONS CONCERNING LICENSES, DISTRIBUTION, AND TAXATION OF WINES.

G. WOOL: AUSTRALIAN DEL STATED THAT US PRODUCERS AND WOOLEN TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS AND AUSTRALIAN WOOL INDUSTRY HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN REMOVING US TARIFFS AND INCREASING US WOOL SUPPLIES SO AS TO COMPETE MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH SYNTHETIC FIBERS. HE SAID THAT A FAILURE OF US WOOL ACT TO FULFILL DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OBJECTIVES AND US TARIFF STRUCTURE ON IMPORTED WOOL HAVE CURTAILED SUPPLIES TO US WOOLEN TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS.

4. US DEL TOOK NOTE OF ABOVE POINTS AND THEN INQUIRED ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE'S CONSIDERATION OF THEIR PROPOSAL FOR ADOPTION OF A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO SOLUTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES (MTN/AG/W/14). AUSTRALIAN DEL REPLIED THAT ISSUE WOULD ARISE ONLY AT NEXT GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING IN CONTEXT OF ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A FUTURE MEETING TO DISCUSS INTER ALIA THEIR PROPOSAL. THEY REITERATED THAT BOTH US AND AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE SEEKING MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE. THERE IS A REAL NEED TO DEVELOP JOINTLY GENERAL RULES ON, FOR EXAMPLE, VLS AND SUBSIDIES, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ATTACKING THE CAP.

5. THE AUSTRALIAN BEL WILL SCHEDULE DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE US NOTIFICATION (ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT JUICE) AGAINST AUSTRALIA UNDER PROCEDURES OF NTM/NTM/26 UPON RECEIPT OF TALKING POINTS FROM CANBERRA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REFTEL C, US DEL WILL DEFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MTN GE 01996 161825Z

SUCH CONSULTATIONS UNTIL AFTER MARCH 28 GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING. CULBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, AS, US, MTN
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